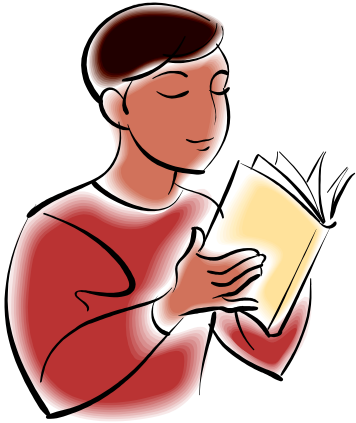


Read Aloud to Build Fluency!



Fluent reading is more than just reading aloud quickly or pronouncing words (decoding) text correctly. Fluent reading is knowing how to adjust reading rate to the purpose of the reading, and how to phrase units of meaning to aid in comprehension. In fact, there is a strong correlation between fluent reading and reading comprehension. Practicing read-alouds also builds endurance for those moments when students have to sit and read long passages, like on state tests.

Fluent readers read aloud with expression and seem to glide over the sentences, pausing in the right places and putting emphasis where it helps to make understanding. Research shows that fluent readers can score higher on tests! Practice reading aloud every day.

Fluency Practice: Timed Readings

Do this every day!

Directions—

- 1) Choose a piece of text that is not too hard nor too easy to read. A book or magazine you are reading for school is a good idea. It should be 2-3 good paragraphs long.
- 2) Start a timer or a stop watch (like the one on smart phones). It is best to have a helper listen to the reading.
- 3) Read the passage quickly, but with expression. Notice how many seconds it took to read the passage. It is better for the reader to slow down and make the reading interesting to hear, than to race through it and make a lot of mistakes.
- 4) Count the number of mistakes made and add that number to the total number of seconds.
- 5) Write down the score and try again.
- 6) Readers should read the same passage three times. Read it twice the first day, then once the second day. See how your score goes up with practice!
- 7) The reader and the helper can take turns.

These things count as mistakes: reading the word wrong, skipping a word, or having to sound out a word without reading the word instantly. It is okay for the helper to tell you a word—but it counts as a mistake.

One-minute readings

Another way to practice is to time for one minute. Count how many words read in one minute. Subtract any mistakes from your count. If partners are working together, and the partner tells the reader a word, that counts as a mistake. Graph the score. Read the passage at least three times. Graph it each time to see improvement!

Buddy Reading

Another practice strategy is for a reader to pair up with an experienced reader who reads fluently. Partners take turns reading the paragraphs. When the more experienced reader reads, observe how he or she adds expression, pays attention to punctuation, and groups words so that the sentences and paragraphs make sense and are easier to understand. The less experienced reader can try to copy what the more experienced reader did.

Readers can test comprehension after each paragraph or section by asking each other “What was this mainly about?” “What is the author saying in this section?” “What new information did I learn and what did I already know?” Partners take turns until the reading is done.